

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 6-9 and 23-24 were rejected as unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of DIODATO et al. 2002/0079522 and PAREKH et al. 2002/0058380. Claims 4-5 and 10-11 were rejected as unpatentable further in view of AMICO et al. 2001/0014498. Claims 12 and 25 were rejected yet further in view of FUKUDA et al. 2002/0079526. Independent claims 6 and 23 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 12 and 25 respectively so that the remaining rejection is the rejection of claims 12 and 25 further in view of FUKUDA et al.

Applicant submits herewith verified English translations of the priority Japanese applications Nos. 2001-042534 and 2001-338404 filed on February 19, 2001 and November 2, 2001 respectively in order to perfect the claim to priority of these applications. Both the priority applications claim priority from dates that precede the U.S. filing date of December 19, 2001 of FUKUDA et al. Accordingly, FUKUDA et al. is no longer available as a prior art reference in this application.

In view of this, the rejections of claims 12 and 25 should be withdrawn, and in view of the present amendment, the rejections of all claims should be withdrawn since all claims now include the limitations of claims 12 and 25.

Please note that support for original claim 12 in the Japanese priority applications is found in paragraphs 0073 and 0074 of priority application 2001-338404.

In view of the present amendment and submission of the verified English translations of the priority Japanese applications, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a terminal disclaimer
- a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- a Replacement Sheet for Figure _____ of the drawings
- a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- verified English translations of the priority Japanese applications